

Council challenges Lang on city's finance freeze

GLASGOW is to press Scotland's new Secretary of State for a firm commitment to the city's future.

The Council will invite Mr Ian Lang to visit Glasgow following all-party condemnation of a freeze in government support for its services next year.

We are offering Mr Lang a chance to shred the legacy of the 1980s," said council leader Pat Reid. "His credibility is enhanced if he takes the opportunity."

One singer, one of government, offered for the years is over. We need a change

"Councillors of every political colour here are outraged by financial decisions made in Edinburgh on instructions from Downing Street."

"So our top priority is a level of cash settlement which Glasgow needs and deserves."

"But Mr Lang will learn a lot about wider issues by coming to see the tremendous progress the city has made in recent years and the grave problems which still have to be tackled."

The move follows an approach last month to Mr Lang's predecessor, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, by City Treasurer Councillor Jean McFadden and opposition leaders John Young and Robert Brown on behalf of the whole Council.

They sought urgent discussions on the "disastrous" impact on poll tax payers of his financial proposals for next year (full story on page 3).

Councillor Lally added: "Glasgow is recognised world-wide as a model for urban regeneration but it still has unacceptable unemployment levels and living conditions."

"The city has survived the past decade largely by its own initiative. We'll continue to do well in the 1990s - but we'd do better if the Government met its responsibilities in full."

And he detailed Glasgow's agenda for change.

JOBS: More help in rebuilding the city's industrial base and developing the service sector.

POLL TAX: Scrap it. "Wrapping a kilt around wheezes dreamed up by an English Environment Secretary won't do. The poll tax is causing great misery. It has to go."

L.P.'s sporting choice



town award bid

is in the
a nation-
award
year in a
of 22
villages

Soviet Union and Turin in Italy.

Lord Provost Susan Baird said: "Naturally we hope to keep the title of Britain's most

... it all at Strathclyde Park from a Special Olympics' competitor.

City Move to push through sale of prime site

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LABOUR councillors are coming under renewed pressure to sanction the sale of a prime Glasgow city centre site for £600,000.

The old Cheese Market area, bounded by Albion Street, Bell Street, Walls Street, and Blackfriars Street, lies in the heart of the Merchant City.

Its site value for redevelopment is estimated, by some surveyors, at around £5m.

Earlier this year, the administration planned to sell it to the Scottish Development Agency for £600,000.

Councillors argued then that that represented only a fraction of its market value.

The sale was stopped. Mr Remo Verrico, the council's estates director, was instructed to establish its real valuation and advertise the site for sale.

This has not happened. Instead at a special meeting on Friday, Mr Verrico will attempt again to get approval for the original deal with the SDA.

On Friday, councillors will be told that:

□ The estates department has discovered some apparent "deficiencies" in the title deeds for some of the individual properties which would make it difficult to sell on the open market.

□ The SDA, since March, has improved its original offer by offering

the council, in addition to the £600,000 cash, a share in any profit generated from the development.

□ Mr Verrico and the SDA regard the "early implementation of this high-quality development as crucial to maintain the impetus of the Merchant City regeneration process."

Glasgow Labour administration is anxious, in the current financial year, to sell off assets and realise capital receipts.

With the Concert Hall and other projects requiring finance, the money is needed immediately.

That might explain the current manoeuvre to disregard March's full council decision — and to persist with selling the site in a quick private deal.

City builders Windex Ltd reached an agreement in principle three years ago with the SDA and the district council to redevelop the site.

In March, a number of councillors headed by former housing convener Bailie James McLean argued that the firm's detailed plans had departed from the original concept.

They argued at the time that they were unhappy not only with the price but with the project itself.

If the £600,000 deal goes through, it will become Windex's biggest project, involving a mixture of commercial premises and expensive city centre flats.

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placement for O grade
which will be phased out
nationally by 1992.

Former LP's fury as Loch plan is ko'd

FORMER Glasgow Lord
Provost Michael Kelly has
launched a bitter attack on
Dumbarton district
councillors.

It is over their rejection
of a £40million Loch
Lomondside development.

He accused them of
ignoring the views of
Balloch people and
rejecting the plans without
a debate.

LENGTHY

Dr Kelly is chairman of
Drumkinnon Develop-
ment Company, who
planned a marina, leisure
centre and housing on the
Drumkinnon Bay site.

"The committee spent
hours pouring over the
application yet after our
lengthy submission the
plans were not even debat-
ed," he said.

But council planning
convener Ian Leitch said:
the committee had unani-
mously rejected the scheme
on 15 different grounds.

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Firms clinch Rostov trade breakthrough

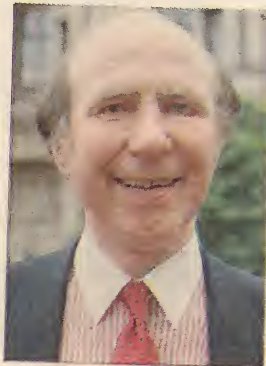
MULTI-MILLION pound export deals have been struck by west of Scotland firms thanks to Glasgow's twinning link with the Soviet city of Rostov-on-Don.

Hoover plc and a Helensburgh food company have released information on their orders to The Bulletin. Others firms are keeping details secret to protect their commercial position.

Council Leader Pat Lally, who led a trade mission including representatives of 18 companies to Rostov in June this year, said: "These orders are the tip of the iceberg."

"Our twinning link with Rostov has given local companies a firm foothold in an expanding market and I've no doubt that there will be more contracts in the future."

Hoover's breakthrough involves a firm order from



Council Leader Pat Lally ... "our efforts are beginning to pay off."

Rostov for 500 vacuum cleaners, to be manufactured at its Cambuslang factory.

The £70,000 contract with Intourist, the Soviet travel enterprise, could be the first of many orders for domestic and industrial appliances.

And Hoover's export sales manager, Mr Roy Chopping, revealed that the company is on the verge of clinching a major contract to sell the Soviets a washing machine production line recently removed from the

company's Welsh plant at Merthyr Tydfil to make way for more up-to-date equipment.

He explained: "This is good news for Glasgow. The machines will be manufactured in Rostov but our workforce at Cambuslang will produce the motors."

"It's too early at the moment to put a definite value on the contract because we are waiting for confirmation of the financial arrangements, but it could be worth several million pounds."

In the biggest twinning-related deal so far, Helensburgh company Interfoods Ltd. has a £5 million agreement to fabricate a dairy plant in Scotland and ship it to Rostov for erection on a greenfield site.

Interfoods managing director, Mr Steven Moussavi, said he believed the proposal was unique.

"As far as I know the prefabrication and ex-

CBI delegates praise Glasgow



DELEGATES to the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) national conference earlier this month were loud in their praise of Glasgow after their third official visit to the city in seven years.

"Many delegates have told me how much they have enjoyed coming back to Glasgow, or coming here for the first time," Alasdair Mair, the CBI's Scottish chairman, said in his closing vote of thanks.

"Many pre-conceived ideas of the city have been completely overturned."

"You have seen the development, the redevelopment, the vigour, the liveliness of

to page 2 Lord Provost Susan Baird, with Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Unilever, at the opening ceremony of the CBI conference at the S.E.C.C. Glasgow,

to page 16

Rostov link brings trading contracts

from page 1

port of this kind of plant hasn't been done before, and the prospect of putting together a team of Scottish companies to achieve it is tremendously exciting."

The factory's main product will be feta cheese for internal Soviet consumption in Azerbaijan and Georgia and export to eastern Europe and the Middle East, but it will also

help meet the acute shortage of baby food in the Soviet Union.

Mr Moussavi added: "The Soviet Union is a vast market and we have to move in as quickly as possible or else other people will take the initiative."

Both Interfoods and Hoover's agreements were initiated during June's trade mission and firmed up when their opposite numbers from Rostov flew to Glasgow

last month to attend the opening of the Royal Concert Hall.

Councillor Pat Lally, Leader of the Council, said this was a perfect example of the potential of inter-city twinning for creating job-spinning trade links.

He explained: "We've spent four years building a relationship of friendship and trust with our colleagues in Rostov based on cultural exchanges and youth visits

"These initial contracts show the effort is beginning to pay off, and I'm sure there will be many more contracts to come."

And he paid tribute to the contribution made by city organisations to the Rostov link.

"This is a real Glasgow team effort. The City Council and Chamber of Commerce have worked well in partnership with superb support from the universities, schools, youth groups and hundreds of individuals."

Twin topics

Fourteen youngsters from Nuremberg and Rostov-on-Don took part in last month's 'All

Maxwell Park turns 100



Councillor Fyfe planting the sycamore tree to mark the centenary of Maxwell Park.

Glasgow is famed for its parks. And while few can boast a history to rival that of Glasgow Green, several, like Maxwell Park in Pollokshields are posting landmarks of their own.

This year is the centenary of Sir John Stirling Maxwell's gift of nearly 20 acres to Burgh of Pollokshields as a place of recreation and amusement for his feuars.

To mark the occasion Councillor Louise Fyfe, convener of the South Area Management Committee, planted a sycamore tree in the park.

Serve

Councillor Fyfe said: "Glasgow's parks are integral to its image as 'the dear green place'. The Council is committed to improving the city's parks so that they will continue to be a sterling asset to Glasgow."

"The city forefathers, through gifts like that of Sir John Maxwell, recognised the importance of parks to create a desirable urban environment. I believe that Maxwell Park will continue to serve the local community and beyond for the next 100 years."

The local historical so

Japan Week will boost business

MORE than 1000 Japanese performers, artists, and craftsmen and women will bring a touch of the Orient to the 1990 Cultural Capital of Europe during Scotland Japan Week from Monday, November 26 - Sunday, December 2.

It is Japanese policy that Japan Week should take place in the same country as that holding the European City of Culture, and the Glasgow move was clinched after a bid by Greater Glasgow Tourist Board and Convention Bureau

chief executive of GGTB & CB. "It will strengthen our ties with a country that is the world's fastest growing outbound tourist market.

"The high prominence and goodwill which this event will give us in Japan is a very positive way of ensuring that Glasgow is recognised as a major European destination by the Japanese."

"Japanese companies already employ nearly 5,000 people directly in

Youth post for Councillor.

Glasgow City Councillor Phil O'Rourke has been elected President of Strathclyde Area Youth Clubs. The post covers all youth clubs in an area ranging from south Ayrshire to Oban.

New C.A.B. offices opened

Bailie James McLean

Fraud Squad aims to question 'Mr Monopoly' of Liverpool

Michael Prestage
Liverpool

FRAUD SQUAD detectives want to question a well-known Liverpool businessman, Ted Spencer, as part of an investigation into land deals involving Liverpool City Council.

Mr Spencer, dubbed Mr Monopoly in his native city, was in Spain, where he now lives, when police staged a series of early-morning raids 10 days ago, questioning several people, including Derek Hatton, the former deputy leader of the council.

Police want to question him about his possible involvement in a land deal at Speke, where it was proposed to site a superstore. The scheme was the subject of a police inquiry, which found no evidence of corruption. However, fraud squad officers say new facts have come to light to re-open this inquiry and they also wish to question him about more recent deals.

Mr Spencer set up ETSpen- cer in 1972 and was involved in a string of projects on prime developments in Liverpool. He moved to Spain shortly before his building firm crashed, owing £1.7 million.

A problem police acknowl-



Hatton: 'No justice'./Photograph by John Wildgoose.

edge in the investigation is separating hard fact from politically-motivated rumour. Fraud Squad officers say there is no evidence to support claims that Liverpool City Council was deprived of money which then went to fund the Militant Tendency. Sources from Militant in Liverpool also deny the allegation.

Chief Superintendent Bill Coady, leading the investigation, said: 'People would like us to blacken Militant. We are not interested. We are not here to assist the Labour Party, the Conservative Party or any other political party.'

Police say there are no plans for further arrests in the near future. They are now concentrating on the laborious task of

sifting through the 250 boxes of material they seized during the raid.

The city council was forced into a series of land deals to raise money to service loans from Swiss and Japanese banks. The strategy is not working well and could leave the council with a £12m deficit by the end of the year. The council last week considered a rent increase, abandoning its housebuilding programme and as many as 1,000 redundancies. The savings package has split the controlling Labour group.

Complaints about the 30-35 land deals under police investigation have been made by the council's Liberal-Democrat group and the 'progressive Left' of the Labour group, which is

pushing through the budget package. Vicki Roberts, chair of the council's finance committee and the sub-committee handling land sales, says she has been subjected to strong pressure from fellow councillors lobbying for particular developers. She believes the police inquiry is in the Labour Party's, as well as the city's, best interests. 'Labour in Liverpool has to be seen to be putting its house in order,' she said.

Derek Hatton emphasises that the lobbying work he undertakes for developers through his PR firm Settleside — set up after he was expelled from the Labour Party — is not illegal. He said: 'My business is suffering. I have had three clients break their contracts, and who can blame them. At the end of the day there will be no criminal charges but my business could be ruined. Where's the justice in that?'

Mr Hatton claimed the council had on occasion lost by going out to tender rather than accepting a bid from a developer. A bid of £4m for land in Derry House Lane was rejected by the council when it went to tender. Last week the local authority accepted a high- est offer of £3.3m.

4/11/90

7/7/91

ROAD PLAN PROTEST BOOKLET SLAMMED

REGION bosses today slammed a pamphlet attacking Glasgow motorway proposals.

They claim the fold-out map and booklet produced by tiny pressure group Glasgow For People contains inaccuracies.

The group are set for a major court battle with Scots Secretary Ian Lang and Strathclyde Region next month.

They hope to overturn a decision to give outline approval to a motorway plan which includes the controversial twin bridges over the Clyde.

The scheme contained in Strathclyde's Structure Plan has already been given the thumbs-up by the Scottish office.

By RON MacKENNA

However, the group claim that roads bosses did not carry out any public consultation before including it in their structure plan update.

DONATION

Glasgow For People hope cash raised from the pamphlet - on offer for a 50p donation - will bring in £5,000 to pay for their court battle.

The glossy booklet, titled Look Out There's A Motorway About, folds out to make an A3-sized poster showing the proposed Townhead to London Road link.

On the reverse, it details alternatives to motorway building and claims the proposed road developments will "slice through the historic birthplace of the city."

Group secretary Alice Moseley said: "We are trying to educate people about the route of these road plans. Many are aghast."

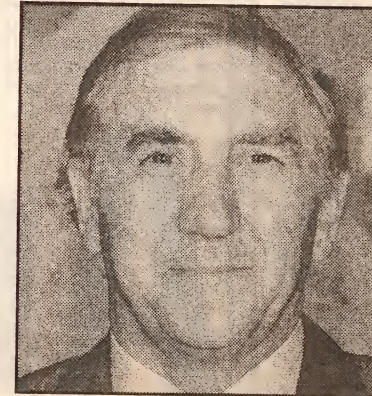
But Region roads director Don Carruthers criticised the booklet, saying it contained many inaccuracies.

"I understand the appeal against the decision is to be heard in court on February 5 and 6 and we await the outcome with interest," he said.

Assistant roads convenor councillor Charles Gordon said the region had carried out full consultation procedures.

"In any case we have nothing planned for any of these schemes for at least the next five years.

"This group is entitled to its opinions but they should not present inaccuracies as fact."



DON CARRUTHERS . . . inaccuracies.

Legacy of Soviet disaster

RADIOACTIVE hotspots have been discovered near a Scottish loch.

But investigators have given the coastal towns Troon, Girvan and Ayr a clean bill of health.

High radiative levels linked to the Russian clear disaster at Chernobyl five years ago exist in parts of Carrick district have discovered.

Readings were taken in the area and the district.

It was found that livestock had been exposed to high levels of radiation.

However, the low levels were recorded in Carrick town and district.

NEW LINK TO CITY LEISURE BOSS



ROBERT HULBERT
Suspended

SUSPENDED Glasgow parks boss Robert Hulbert is linked to a SECOND private leisure company bidding for Scottish council contracts.

An Evening Times investigation has discovered that Mr Hulbert, depute director (development) of parks and leisure, is listed as a director and major shareholder of Open Space Management (East Midlands) Ltd.

LISTED

The Leicester-based company has attempted to bid for leisure contracts at Hamilton District Council as well as other local authorities.

Company records clearly show Mr Hulbert's signature consenting to act as director.

He has already been suspended from

EXCLUSIVE

By ALLY McLAWS
and RON MacKENNA

his £32,000-a-year Glasgow post while council officials investigate his links with another Leicester-based company, Contemporary Leisure Ltd.

They have bid for business from Strathkelvin District Council and dozens of other local authorities.

Open Space Management (East Midlands) Ltd, an off-the-shelf company, was set up in May last year.

Thomas Kiernan, Robert Hulbert, Douglas Stewart and David Bryant are listed as directors of the company.

The Evening Times has established that the four - all former or current local authority leisure bosses - were behind the formation of Contemporary Leisure.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Meanwhile, Mr Major has shelved plans for an early General Election. The Monmouth disaster confirmed NHS "reforms" are now the government's biggest vote loser. Tory chairman Chris Patten gave the clearest signal yet that Mr Major may wait another year before risking a nationwide poll. That would give the government time to push through all its legislation - including the Bill covering the new Council Tax due to replace the Poll Tax - Mr Patten said. Labour leader Neil Kinnock was

CHAMPION ... Huw Edwards celebrates his knock-out victory at Monmouth

cock-a-hoop after Huw Edwards overturned a 9335 Tory majority by a margin of 2406. Mr Kinnock said: "Triumph is the only word that fits" and called for an immediate General Election. Victor Edwards said: "We are heading for government." ● **BOOKIES** William Hill now make Labour 8-11 favourites to win the next general election, with the Tories at evens.

THE MONMOUTH RESULT

H Edwards (Lab): 17,733 (39.2%). R Evans (C): 15,327 (33.9%). Mrs F David (Lib Dem): 11,164 (24.7%). Lord David Sutcliffe (Monster Raving Loony): 314. M Witherden (Plaid Cymru/Green): 277. P Carpenter (Unitax Independent): 164. L St Clair (Corrective): 121. Turnout: 45,195 (76%). Lab maj: 2,406. Con to Lab swing: 12.6%.

Parks boss new link

(Continued from Page One)

Despite the fact that Open Space is trying to compete for major council contracts, there is no phone listing for the company.

The only number given, in confidential company profile documents sent to local authorities, is for an answering service.

HELM

The telephonist at "the Midlands Office" said anyone wishing to contact Open Space or its directors could leave a message with the service or write to it.

But both Open Space and Contemporary Leisure have the same registered office - Peat House, Leicester - and both have Tom Kiernan at the helm. Questioned about Contemporary Leisure and Mr Hulbert's connection, Mr Kiernan first admitted that he was a major shareholder ...

Then changed his mind,

Name (note 2 and 3) ROBERT HULBERT		Business occupation Local Government
Previous names (note 2)		Nationality English
Address (note 3 and 4) 50, CAMDEN ROAD		Date of birth (where applicable) (note 3) N/A
Other directorships (note 3) EDINBURGH FILM DIST		
I consent to act as director of the above company		
Signature [Signature]		Date 5.5.90

Robert Hulbert's signature on the document obtained by the Evening Times

saying the shares were mistakenly issued in Mr Hulbert's name and have since been registered in the name of the company lawyer - David Williams.

Mr Kiernan denied today that Mr Hulbert was involved with Open Space. He said: "Mr Hulbert is not a shareholder and certainly not a director."

When told we had obtained a company document signed by Mr Hulbert and stating he was accepting a directorship

with Open Space, Mr Kiernan said:

"I will need to speak to the company lawyer about that."

LAWYER

Mr Williams, Contemporary Leisure Ltd and Open Space Management (East Midlands) Ltd company lawyer, said:

"I understand that Mr Hulbert's shares in Open Space have been transferred. I don't know to whom."

Asked about the document signed by Mr Hulbert consenting to act as a director with Open Space in May of last year, Mr Williams said:

"I cannot comment. I have no instructions on this."

The officially registered shareholdings for Open Space Management (East Midlands) Ltd show:

Robert Hulbert as holding 100 shares; David Bryant 100; Thomas Kiernon 99; Douglas Stewart 99; and Mr Patrick Cooke and Mrs Ann Cooke of Leicester 100 each.

Mr Hulbert refused to comment on the latest twist in the shares shocker that has rocked Glasgow City Council.

He has already been suspended from his job and is expected to appear before a disciplinary hearing next week.

Chief executive Steven Hamilton said today that he could not comment on the matter as the disciplinary hearing was pending.

air dispute

SCOTLAND'S leading airport authority, the CAA, has called for talks with air traffic controllers in a bid to avert a summertime strike.

News of the eleventh hour meeting came today hours after the leader of the air traffic controllers' union, Bill Brett, warned of possible flights chaos.

Strike action in Scotland at the Scottish Air Traffic Control Centre would mean all Scots flights would grind to a halt.

Thousands of Scots holidaymakers would face travel chaos as planes were left stranded on runways around the country.

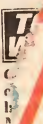
ROYALS IN MIAMI

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are heading for Miami today for the second leg of their American tour.

After attending a service in Washington's St John's Cathedral, they will fly to Concorde to Florida where they will spend the night.

They will visit the pupil Booker T. Washington Middle School in downtown Miami.

Later the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will fly to the Royal Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami.



Shock move by city Gang of Four

SECRET PLOT TO OUST LALLY



LALLY: Leader



McCAFFERTY: Bid

A SECRET bid has been launched to oust Glasgow council supremo Pat Lally.

The Evening Times can reveal today that rebel councillors met behind closed doors last night to select a challenger for the most powerful job in the city.

And the shock outcome was that Councillor Charles McCafferty WILL stand against Mr Lally in the forthcoming Labour Group elections.

It is the first major challenge to the Labour leader since he took power five years ago.

STUNNED

When the Evening Times broke the news to Councillor Lally today he was "stunned."

He said he was unaware of last night's meeting, but added that the councillors were "perfectly entitled" to challenge him.

Mr McCafferty is one of the most

EXCLUSIVE

By RON MacKENNA

respected senior councillors on Glasgow District Council.

It is too early to say how many will support him in his power bid, but he already has the backing of left-wingers in the 60-strong Labour group.

At the secret meeting a list of councillors who will bid for key positions was drawn up.

The Gang Of Four are Marjorie O'Neill, Margaret Sinclair, Bill Butler, and McCafferty.

Their nominations will be handed into the Labour Group secretary before the deadline expires tomorrow.

The move is guaranteed to spark a major power struggle within the City Chambers.

And it ends months of rumours that growing disillusionment among certain councillors would result in a challenge.

(Continued on Page 2)

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NOW!

Scottish Secretary Ian Lang, who is responsible for looking after Scotland's interests, is flying completely counter to the country's wishes in permitting these test bores.

No-one wants them. People know they are the thin edge of the wedge. In over-ruling Highland Region, which refused Nirex planning permission to prospect the area, he has sought to minimise the consequences of his actions.

But Scots won't be fooled by that. It is the first step on the road towards nuclear dumping. It may even be the prelude to a long-term Nirex plan to make Caithness the permanent home for high-level nuclear waste.

Anti-dumping campaigners don't believe Nirex is expending so much money on siting a low-level waste depository. It needs a place to store high level waste when its present non-permanent storage areas are full.

Caithness fits the bill. With waste being ferried overland the full length of Scotland, or brought in by container ship across some of the most treacherous coastal waters in the world.

We all of us have a responsibility in ensuring that never happens.

Plot to oust Lally

(Continued from Page One)

Major behind-the-scenes rows have taken place over issues including Glasgow Green and Glasgow's Glasgow.

The Gang of Four have waited until the last possible moment before selecting their challengers.

Councillor McCafferty said the move was a reaction to recent controversial decisions taken by Mr Lally.

In a statement after the night of the long knives, the Gang of Four said:

DECISIONS

"We believe there is a need in Glasgow District Council for more open government than we have had recently.

"We feel there have been some controversial decisions taken in the recent past, and we feel members should have a chance to make their feelings known."

Councillor Lally rose to power in a similar way five years ago when he ousted Jean McFadden after her nine-year rule.

Ironically, the rebels' "open government" platform is the same message Lally used at the time.

He spoken out against what he called "decision-making behind closed doors."

Ordered out

A SENIOR policeman, who spearheaded his force's Christmas blitz on drunken motorists, has lost his £36,000-a-year job a month after he was convicted of drink-driving.

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New cycleway opens



On your bike!

THE regional council's involvement in the £1 million Glasgow and Irvine Pedestrian and Cycle route was marked when Convener James Jennings opened a major section of the route.

There is now a continuous route free from traffic between Elderslie and Glasgow for the enjoyment of walkers, joggers and cyclists.

Also open are two shorter off-road paths in Paisley and Kilwinning.

And between Glengarnock and Kilwinning Strathclyde's roads department has signposted an advisory route for cyclists using minor roads. Part of the path is also to run along the

By a Special Correspondent

former Lochwinnoch Loop railway line.

The official opening was the culmination of three years' hard work by a co-ordinating committee with representatives of each participating authority. Sustrans Ltd, a charitable trust, has undertaken the construction of paths along disused railways.

The project was promoted by the regional council, the district councils of Renfrew, Cuninghame and Glasgow, Irvine Development Corporation and Sustrans Ltd, with additional funding from the Manpower Services Commission, the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Scottish Development Agency.

The regional council is

committed to extending the route from Kilwinning to Irvine Harbourside and to Ardrossan. The region is also supporting Sustrans in creating a further path from Johnstone to Greenock.

With the intention to extend the Paisley to Irvine route north eastwards into Glasgow to join the Loch Lomond to Glasgow pedestrian/cycle route, it is clear a comprehensive network for safe cycling is gradually taking place throughout Strathclyde.

For people interested in the Irvine/Glasgow route, a brochure is available from the regional council at 20 India Street, Glasgow and from local libraries and tourist offices.

Council bribes probe

By Rosie Waterhouse

A COUNCIL corruption scandal involving allegations of bribes for contracts, misuse of public funds, intimidation of witnesses and destruction of evidence is being investigated by police in Staffordshire.

A closed meeting of the policy committee of Labour-controlled Stoke City Council will tomorrow hear details of the inquiry, which centres on the city works department. The amount of cash involved may run into millions.

Detectives from the commercial fraud unit were called in by the council chief executive in March following a secret internal inquiry carried out by nine auditors over eight months. The director of works, Brian Powell, has been suspended on full pay and more suspensions are expected.

In a confidential report to the policy committee in March, Stuart Titchener, chief executive, wrote "the audit report indicates a number of apparent breaches of the council's systems and procedures which I believe will need to be the subject of disciplinary procedures in due course."

It seemed "inappropriate" that the director of works should remain in his post for the time being, he said, and an investigating

committee was set up to hear the disciplinary complaint. Police began three lines of inquiry and after interviewing 50 people are investigating allegations of theft and the use of false bank accounts to obtain money from the council for non-existent contracts.

The first case concerns the refurbishment of three council flats in Stoke at a cost of about £25,000, by diverting materials and services allegedly without committee approval. One flat was occupied by the director of works, the other two by friends of works department staff. Work done by council employees included installation of new kitchens, bathrooms and central heating.

The second allegation involves claims that contracts were awarded to companies without going out to tender or in breach of tendering procedures — for example, by failing to accept the lowest price or by renegotiating quotes with favoured companies.

The third case concerns renovation and new building at the city works department main depot at Cromer Road, Stoke. In September 1990 the works committee ap-

proved £75,000 to be spent on the scheme. But the job was sub-contracted to outside firms allegedly without council approval.

The investigation also covers an allegation that the budget was increased without approval and £370,000 was withdrawn from the direct labour organisation's reserve fund to pay for the work — taking the project almost £300,000 over budget. Bills submitted by sub-contractors so far amount to about £250,000.

Police are also to investigate how profits in the direct labour organisation's reserve fund have dwindled from £4.2m to £2.3m. The department donated £1m towards the building of a new civic centre but £900,000 is alleged to be unaccounted for.

Chief Inspector Tony Wyke, head of Staffordshire commercial fraud unit, said: "We are making inquiries and we are discovering other things. Other areas may make it into a large-scale inquiry. It would not be possible to put a figure on it. We are looking into certain irregularities concerning Mr Powell's involvement and also one other person who is still employed by the council. But we are looking at other areas and it may involve other people."

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2800 jobs at risk in poll tax crisis

By JOHN MacCALMAN,
Municipal Correspondent

COUNCIL leaders in Strathclyde said yesterday that an anticipated £62m shortfall in poll tax collection would put 2800 jobs at risk.

Their warning followed a finance department forecast of an overall budget deficit of £175m that could force poll tax increases of £106 per head.

Other factors contributing to the overall shortfall included higher than forecast rates of inflation and wage settlements, and the withdrawal of the Government's community charge safety net.

Bracing themselves for a programme of cuts, Labour councillors were furious with suggestions from Government sources that the council's warnings amounted to the usual "shadow boxing" preceding the annual Revenue Support Grant announcement from the Scottish Office.

The new Scottish Office settlement is anticipated later next month, but already the Labour administration has called for a belt-tightening exercise across the whole range of council activities, with the exception of the caring services.

The finance chairman, Councillor John Mullin, said the council would be happy to open up its books and demonstrate the truth of what the administration had been arguing.

He said: "We have done all we can in terms of collection. We have passed over 350,000 summary warrants to sheriff officers. While we have been against the poll tax from the very beginning, we've kept our opposition within the law."

"We have done everything the legislation asked us to do. We cannot be accused of deliberately frustrating the collection process."

"Unfortunately the Government would like the people of Scotland to believe that the reason for a shortfall of the magnitude we have predicted is a result of authorities doing nothing. That is not the case."

"It's the result of the genuine poverty that exists and the unpopular nature of this piece of legislation."

● In the Western Isles poll tax arrears for last year are almost £1m, and the arrears for the current financial year are 79%.

In a report before the council's policy and resources committee in Stornoway yesterday, members were told there were still outstanding computer problems, the community charge registration officer has still 10 weeks amendments to process, and the council had staffing problems in the department.

The report stated that at June 22 the arrears for 1989-90 amounted to £982,740, about 24.6% of the amount due.

The amount of poll tax income due for the period to May 31 this year was £771,200, whereas actual receipts totalled £163,256.

● Strathclyde Anti-Poll Tax Federation yesterday urged social security workers to stage a one-day strike next Wednesday, the day a seven-day fast by 11 of its members agains forced benefit reduction is scheduled to end, and join a march and lobby or a meeting of Strathclyde Region.

The appeal, however met with a mixed response from Civil and Public Services Association junior officials in Glasgow. Mr Gerry McMahon, a union official with the DHSS Glasgow North branch of the CPSA, said he felt many members would hold to the official union policy, which said the law should be upheld.

COMPUTING SCIENCE
WITH MANAGEMENT SCI-
ENCE — Paul Charles
Smith (Second, lower).
ECOLOGICAL SCI-
ENCE — Bobby (Second, lower); Steven Al-
exander Horn (Second, lower);
Andrew Louise Meacham (Second,
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ONMENTAL SCIENCE —
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upper).
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ENCE — Rebecca Ashford-
Barrett (Second, upper); Rachel
Christina Bellis (Second, lower);
Sarah Davidson (Second, upper);
Angela Danyse Flowers (Second,
upper); James Murray Hanbury
(Second, lower); Pat Morrison
(Second, lower); Jane Elizabeth
Oliver (Second, lower); Elizabeth
Paton (Second, lower); Kathryn
Emma Risk (Second, lower); Caro-
lyn Kinnear Sharp (Second, lower);
Steven Gordon Soular
(Second, upper); Tamara Elizabeth
Ellis Young (Second, lower).
ENVIRONMENTAL SCI-
ENCE WITH BIOLOGY —
Michael John Allen (Third, Shir-
ley Derrick (Second, upper).
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES —
Russell Malcolm Harvey (Second,
lower); Simon Nicholas Riley (Sec-
ond, lower); Mark Robertson
(First).
MANAGEMENT SCIENCE —
Sally Catherine Anne Blewett (Sec-
ond, upper); Brian Norman Dadds
Gairbreith (Second, upper); Susan
Hampton (First); Ian James Thom
(Second, lower); Mandy Wishart
(Second, lower).
MANAGEMENT SCIENCE
WITH COMPUTING SCIENCE
— Neil James Taylor (Second,
upper).

House hunting

EVERY week the council are quietly getting rid of houses that no-one wants.

Some are bulldozed, some are hived off to other agencies.

But the bureaucrats have forgotten the two houses at the corner of Mossbank Boulevard and Arran Drive. Way back in 1988 a decision was taken to get rid of the two houses there that stood empty – and were actually sinking!

Trouble was that Lomond House seems to have lost the problem site in its massive files. I'm told that the housing boys are to assure everyone that they have plans in their famous pipeline.

Labour loss is big secret



PAT CHALMERS

THE Lally camp are still trying to work out the voting figures in a secret Labour group election.

They're trying to understand how their nominee in a secret Labour group election was beaten by just one vote.

Councillor Denis Murphy, a member of the group executive, was beaten 26 votes to 25 by Partick councillor Patricia Chalmers.

Before the meeting Mrs Chalmers was given no chance.

Now she is the new group secretary

following the retiral of Councillor Danny Crawford and the position gives her an automatic seat on the group executive.

The group's growing band of dissidents hail the result as a victory.

But Chalmers is nobody's prisoner.

● ONLY a couple of months into the new financial year and the Labour leaders are revising their 1991-1992 "loss prediction".

It looks like the city will end up with a £11m deficit which will mean a poll tax increase.

Councillor Lally and his cohorts are hoping that something turns up. Like a Labour Government. Don't hold your breath ...



● TORY leader John Young predicts that the Labour administration is collapsing under a mountain of bumph. The latest evidence, he argues, was a meeting of the Race Equality sub-committee. "There are more papers than before local government re-organisation in 1973," said Young.

Off they go

STEVE Hamilton, the long-serving town clerk, is retiring this autumn. Now his brother-in-law, Remo Verrico, has decided to take early retirement at the same time. Presumably this will allow both men, and their wives, to spend more time at Remo's villa in Spain.

In recent years Mr Verrico's department presided over the council's non-stop selling of public land and property asset. Something like £25 million was realised from these "sales".

When Tories privatise things, they are condemned for selling the family silver. When our Labour rulers do the same at George Square, it is called "realising capital receipts".

CONTACT LENSES
2 PAIRS FOR THE
PRICE OF ONE.

Rover Cars, explains: "Apart from the problem of convenience, people also tend to feel that visiting a dealer showroom means giving, or being drawn

the revamping of the group's 600-strong dealer network over the next year.

In common with other car manufacturers, Vauxhall does not own its deal-

ing to buy a Cavalier or an Astra will find brighter and better designed premises.

Mr Boylan calls the effect "disciplined" and is particularly adamant

verted into ensuring customer satisfaction after the sale.

"People are more demanding as customers now. They are not going to accept second-class service," said Mr

and-razzmatazz promotions... one which Rover itself was offering in London's Broadgate Centre last week.

GERAINT LEWIS



Terry Hanafin: 'I don't want Lewisham to be an average borough'

COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Job Title: chief executive of London borough council

Equivalent Position: Chief executive of a medium-sized company

Average earnings: £60,000-80,000

Average Age: 40-55

Qualifications: Usually a solicitor or a member of the Chartered Institute for Public Finance Accountancy

Experience: Between 15 and 30 years in local government, including running one of the borough council's main departments

Where the jobs are to be found: London

Ratio of Men to Women in job: 10:1

Average number of staff managed: about 14,000

Budget handled: £400m gross revenues

From planning to politics

LIKE most chief executives of London boroughs, Terry Hanafin, now 41, joined local government at an early age. But in other respects his background is unusual for a post which is still most often filled by a trained lawyer or accountant.

Mr Hanafin grew up in Middlesbrough and his first job after graduating in engineering science and economics from Oxford was in the operational research department of British Coal, where he employed his training in mathematical approaches to management.

"After two years I saw a job advertised, which was quite senior for me, aged 23, working for the director of leisure services in Greenwich Council as head of forward planning. I never looked back from there," he says.

After a year in central planning in Camden, he moved to a more senior post in Lewisham where, except for two years spent as a management consultant, he has remained.

As chief executive he is now the administrative head of the borough, which has 14,000 employees and £400m gross revenues, and is responsible for putting into practice the policies of the council, which comprises 67 elected local politicians and is presently dominated by Labour.

Top of his list of duties, consequently, he says, is "managing the interface between politicians and the organisation". As a former councillor himself for Brent, where he lives, he has developed a keen sensitivity to

politics. As a result he says he is better able to set his own political views aside in a job which entails interpreting the six "core values" which the council has laid down.

At times, however, this can be a delicate area and a recent meeting covered the legal question of whether or not a councillor could order the chief executive to alter a report prepared by one of his officers.

"An extreme example would be if a director thinks that he has a legal duty to report an overspend but the chair-

MY JOB AND ME

man of the council does not want it to be reported because it is embarrassing," he says. "There is no clear cut answer."

While he was a councillor himself he remained head of corporate planning for Lewisham, two levels below chief executive, partly because his political activities would have disqualified him from seeking higher administrative office.

As the chief executive he sees his role as a manager of the chief officers in charge of the departments, such as education, health and finance, and as a team leader dealing with the 30 or so key issues.

The borough is competing with 14 other local authorities for a slice of the £75m a year being offered by the Department of the Environment in the City Challenge. With only four

weeks before a decision is made, Mr Hanafin is holding meetings with his officers to prepare Lewisham's bid.

"What I was trying to do was to say 'great' where they were on track and to say 'that's not going to work' when they weren't," he says.

As part of the council's drive to improve the quality of its environmental services the borough has set and published the standards which it aims to maintain and has offered cash compensation to residents if these are not met. Mr Hanafin hopes that this will have the effect of motivating the council's employees, which is another aspect of his job. A Mori poll of council employee's attitudes towards their employer commissioned by the council last month may also provide ideas for improving efficiency.

Mr Hanafin himself works an average of 60 hours a week, beginning at 9.30am. His own staff sifts through his correspondence and gives him a summary for comments, a list which can run to over a hundred if he is away for a few days. He meets regularly on an informal basis with the heads of local agencies, such as the police, the health authority and other civil service departments in order to keep them informed about the council's plans. He also reviews the press comment which the borough has attracted.

"I don't want Lewisham to be an average borough. I want it to be well-known," he says.

Justin Webster

City adopts policy for a better quality of life

By JOHN EASTON

GLASGOW District Council has adopted a significant policy document calling for extra resources and a quickening pace of renewal to provide a better quality of life for the city.

Bailie Patricia Chalmers, convener of the planning committee, said yesterday that the document, City Planning Aims for the Next Decade, highlighted the main issues of concern and established a framework of common aims within which future policy and investment decisions could be made.

She said: "Rightly, there has been great emphasis on developing the service sector of the economy. However, manufacturing still employs three times as many people as tourism, and this industrial element needs to be strengthened. 'In order to attract in-

ward investment and encourage home-grown entrepreneurs to stay here, the council intends to encourage rational use of land for industrial development. We also mean to address the grave shortage of small industrial units, a problem which I would hope will be given a high priority by the newly established Glasgow Development Agency."

Bailie Chalmers said more and better premises on better-serviced sites in a better environment were required to generate more jobs at every level. In many parts of the city, serious ground instability problems existed, and the public utilities must work together to secure the cash to carry out urgent work in this field.

The report says that the council would be failing in its civic responsibilities if it did not concentrate sub-

stantial efforts on the peripheral estates such as the former GEAR area, the Clyde, Springburn, Royston and Canal corridors, and Cambuslang Halfway.

The intention is to use powers of compulsory purchase to smooth the way for partnership arrangements with other public agencies and with the private sector to bring about regeneration.

Bailie Chalmers said: "This approach worked in the Merchant City, and it can also work in less fashionable areas. Indeed, it must. Morally, none of us can be sanguine about the deprivation and dereliction which still exist in large parts of Glasgow."

On the retailing front, the report points out that the council's policy is to maintain the strength of strategic centres such as Byres Road, Victoria

Road, and Springburn, as well as local centres such as Bridgeton, and other smaller groups of shops.

At the same time, it says that further planned development of quality shopping in the city centre, which has proved an attraction to visitors as well as a service to Glaswegians, must be encouraged.

The report adds that the trend towards out-of-town shopping is strong and there is no objection to it in principle. However, it stresses that the council would be again failing in its duty if it allowed this phenomenon to flourish at the expense of established centres.

Bailie Chalmers said: "The key here is to ensure balanced retail provision which puts no part of the community at a disadvantage, but still allows choice."